

SPACEMAKER

McClellan Air Force Base, Calif.

July 22, 1999 Vol. 40, No. 27

AT A GLANCE

Open forum for civilians

A question and answer session for employees who have received Reduction In Force letters and are not retirement eligible will be held by the Benefits Section today at 1 p.m. in Bldg. 8, Room 22.

The topics for discussion will be health insurance, life insurance, Thrift Savings Plan, and both CSRS and FERS retirements. The room will accommodate 50 people.

More sessions will be scheduled as needed. For more information, call 643-5702 or send e-mail to Phyllis Conary if you wish to attend.

Therapy seminar available

A menopause and hormone replacement therapy seminar will take place Tuesday, July 27 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Health and Wellness Center, second floor, Rafferty Hall.

The seminar will provide information on hormone replacement therapy and the alternatives of dealing with menopause. For more information, call 643-4648.

Military widows meet

The Society of Military Widows, Sacramento Chapter #5, will have a membership and business meeting August 7 at 1 p.m. in the Chapel Annex.

Speakers Marion Bayham and Shannon Guzzo will discuss Long Term Care Insurance and Points for Profit. For more information, call 422-0891.

Training services

The Community Impact Project is an employment and training grant available to employees who may not be eligible for the SETA National Reserve Grant. For assistance with employment call 263-2342.

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U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Robert A. Firman

Brig. Gen. and base golf champion Michael P. Wiedemer takes a practice swing before teeing off during Saturday's base championship.

Fore!

2nd Lt. Robert A. Firman
Public Affairs

Three four-person teams took to the course Saturday for the McClellan base championship golf tournament. Brig. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer took top honors and finished the 18-hole tourney three strokes ahead of the pack.

"This was a great tournament and the course is in excellent condition," said Charlie Gilbert, director of golf for Lawrence Links Golf Course. "We saw some great play and the competitors really had to earn their scores."

The winners of the annual base-level tournament will advance to the regional level Aug. 1 at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah. The winners from Ogden advance to the Air Force Materiel Command championship tourney at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. August 9.

"We're planning to have one more base championship next year," Gilbert added. Lawrence Links golf course will be turned over to Sacramento County in Sept. of 2000.

McClellan Golfers playing at Hill AFB will include Robert Hoff, Bobbie Jones, Daniel Cormier, Jack Marth and Kelsey Christopher.

Y2K preparations still on track

Brig. Gen. Gary A. Ambrose
Director, Air Force Year 2000 Office

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — With only six months remaining until Jan. 1, 2000, the Air Force continues to make excellent progress in its year 2000 — or Y2K — preparations. Y2K is an operational problem, and we're attacking the problem on four fronts: system compliance, installation (base) certification, integration testing and consequence management.

Systems are under control — 96 percent of our mission-critical weapon and automated information systems are Y2K-compliant. Overall, about 93 percent of all Air Force systems are now certified. For those not yet ready, we know what they are and when they will be done, and we're watching them closely.

On the installation side, 95 percent of mission-critical infrastructure items are Y2K-compliant. All of our installation commanders have certified their bases are Y2K-ready from the perspectives of utilities, fire safety and security. Wing commanders are now performing "end-of-runway checks" — assessments of the ability of each of their groups to perform its critical mission in a Y2K environment.

They are also testing their continuity of operations plans, or COOPs. On May 11-12, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., was the site of a "wall-to-wall," base-wide test that looked at the Y2K performance of infrastructure items; communications networks; and logistics, personnel, medical, finance, civil engineering and security systems.

During the test, more than 7,500 clocks on dozens of automated systems and infrastructure items were rolled forward through four crucial dates: Sept. 8 to 9, 1999; Sept. 30 to Oct. 1, 1999; Dec. 31 to Jan. 1, 2000; and

Feb. 28 to 29, 2000. Only a few anomalies occurred, notably some involving Y2K-certified, commercial off-the-shelf software. None of the anomalies produced mission-stopping effects.

Each time we "roll the clocks" we learn something new. For that reason, we have urged every installation commander to conduct live-base Y2K testing.

Current Y2K efforts focus on system evaluation in mission scenarios. All systems were individually tested as part of their compliance certification. We are now assessing systems of systems.

Much of the time remaining until Jan. 1 will be devoted to consequence management. Despite all of the efforts spent in certifying and testing systems and installations, we won't be 100 percent sure of finding and fixing all potential problems. So, we must be prepared to operate if computers fail.

Contingency plans and mission continuity of operations plans will ensure the mission continues if such failures occur. Mission-critical system "owners" completed their systems' contingency plans by Dec. 31, 1998. The deadline for all Air Force installations to have COOPs in place and tested is June 30.

Preliminary results highlight the need for commanders at all levels to assess the risk impacts of the most likely Y2K failures. COOPs must have the proper resources to be executable. Now — not Dec. 31 — is the time to take action if manual workarounds require additional manpower, training or supplies.

Some Y2K failures are likely to occur, but we do not anticipate catastrophic failures. The job will get done; our people will be paid; our families will be cared for; and our bases will be safe and secure.

Finally, we're confident that the Air Force will be able to perform its mission anywhere in the world Jan. 1, 2000, and beyond.

Future warfighters need F-22 capabilities

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — The Air Force is calling for restored funding for its newest, most advanced aircraft, the F-22 *Raptor*, following a vote by the House Appropriations Committee July 16 to eliminate \$1.8 billion in production funding in fiscal 2000. This would delay production start by a year.

“The F-22 is critical to our national defense, providing the Air Force with unmatched air superiority for the 21st Century,” said Gen. George T. Babbitt, commander of Air Force Materiel Command. “Without the F-22, our future warfighting capabilities will be threatened.”

Air Force and DOD officials will continue to work with members of the House and Senate as both chambers debate the future of the aircraft. Following are some of the most commonly asked questions about the F-22, its capabilities and its critical role in national defense.

Q Isn't it reasonable for the Air Force to take a year's breather on this program?

A It's more complex than that. The Air Force and its F-22 corporate team members can't just drop everything and wait a year to start up again. F-22 operational capability would slip from 2005 to 2007. It would cost \$6.5 billion to get the program back on track, would require a costly Service Life Extension Program for the F-15 and would negatively impact the Joint Strike Fighter program development.

Q Why does the Air Force need the F-22? Won't the Joint Strike Fighter replace the F-15 and F-16?

A Missions performed by the F-15 and F-16 in the skies above today's battlefields will be performed by the F-22 and JSF, respectively, in 2010 and beyond. The F-22 is the air superiority aircraft that will clear the way for follow-on forces. The JSF will attack ground targets and enemy troops and provide American and allied ground forces with close air support. This highly-effective aircraft and mission combination is often referred to as the High/Low mix.

Q Isn't talk about threats to U.S. air superiority just an excuse to buy a new airplane?

A No. Air superiority fighters are the first in the theater, providing cover for incoming friendly forces. We cannot predict what kind of enemy capabilities we will face, but we know our enemies will exploit any weakness. The fighter aircraft we deploy to attain and maintain air superiority must have an

overwhelming capability advantage. Our warfighters need to deter future adversaries and be able to fight outnumbered and win.

Q Hasn't the Air Force proved that it has no competition for air superiority?

A Potential adversaries looked at the American way of war and concluded that one way to counter our air dominance is with sophisticated air defenses built around modern surface to air missile systems. We expect our enemies and potential enemies to field such systems in the next decade. We can counter them with the stealth, supercruise and avionics of the F-22.

Q Couldn't the money the Air Force wants to spend on the F-22 be better used in improving its people programs and facilities?

A The Air Force shares congressional concern for the current state of welfare, morale, facilities and equipment of our people, but it is imperative that we take care of present concerns at the same time that we consider and provide for future operational requirements, without sacrificing one or the other.

Q Can't the Air Force continue to upgrade the F-15 and make it stealthier at a lower cost than the F-22?

A No. An upgraded F-15 would not provide the stealth, supercruise and maneuverability of the F-22, would consume resources planned for F-22 development and would still leave air superiority over future battlefields uncertain.

SEE F-22 ON PAGE 4



Col. Charlie Cotter
77th Air Base Wing commander

Hi. I'm Col. Charlie Cotter and I am thrilled to have the honor of commanding the 77th ABW.

I value the opportunity to serve you, members of the McClellan community. The Action Line is your direct link to focus my attention on something you feel I should know. It may be used to highlight an area where you have received exceptional service. The Action Line is also your means to tell me about a challenge or issue that you have not been able to resolve. Certainly, it is

best to first try to resolve the issue with the responsible agency, since ultimately that is where the issue will get fixed. Another means to address a problem is through your chain of command.

But, if neither of these approaches resolves the issue to your satisfaction, let me know in your Action Line call what the challenge is and how you think it could be resolved to your satisfaction. I look forward to serving all members of the McClellan community.

Action Line

643-3344
Action Line
77 ABW/CC
5241 Arnold Ave.
McClellan AFB, CA
95652-1086

Actionline@email.mcclellan.af.mil

Base Phone Numbers

AAFES.....	920-0537
Civilian Pay.....	643-6725
Civil Engineering.....	643-5624
Civilian Personnel.....	643-2860
Commissary.....	643-4954
Crime Stop Hotline.....	643-6161
Dining Hall.....	643-5092
Family Support.....	643-1106
Focus Center #1.....	643-5661
Fraud, Waste & Abuse.....	643-6000
Housing.....	643-6221
Legal.....	643-3150
Lodging.....	643-6223
Medical Appointments.....	643-8400
After Hours.....	643-7212
TRICARE Service Center.....	(800) 242-6788
Military Pay.....	643-6965
Military Personnel.....	643-1094
Public Affairs.....	643-6127
Retiree Activities.....	643-2207
Security Forces.....	643-6160
Services.....	643-6660
Social Actions.....	643-3322
Supply.....	643-5213
Uniform Questions.....	643-4051

Your Say

What would you use as a recruiting slogan for the Air Force?



“Free room and board with an education.”

Jim Bohr
Quality Assurance Evaluator



“Stay at the Hilton, not in a tent.”

Senior Airman Phil Scarbrd
Quality Assurance Evaluator



“It's better than many other employment opportunities.”

2nd Lt. Stephen R. Potts
Maintenance Support Chief



“Women like men in uniform.”

Airman 1st Class Thomas Waldrop
Computer Programmer

Air Force Vision

"Air Force people building the world's most respected air and space force ... global power and reach for America"

Air Force Materiel Command Vision

"Quality Systems for America's Air Force"

Sacramento Air Logistics Center Vision

"Completing the mission of McClellan AFB with professionalism and honor"

SPACEMAKER

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All airmen responsible for future Air Force

Col. Joseph W. Siniscalchi Jr.
360th Recruiting Group
Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

Recruiting is every airman's business. As airmen, we should be proud to be part of the world's greatest air and space force. Certainly, the events in Kosovo headlined on the evening news bear witness to the incredible ability of our people.

The "world's most respected Air Force" was not built by chance; we benefit from the efforts of the airmen who preceded us. Today, the entire world stands in awe of what they created. Now we are charged to continue the Air Force legacy. Our responsibility is to ensure the future of our great Air Force.

This requires each and every one of us, regardless of the unit we are assigned, to take an active role in promoting the Air Force way of life to the young men and women of our nation.

We carry the torch passed on by generations of airmen over the past 50 years.

Likewise, we must accept the challenge to build the next generations of airmen. In today's environment, recruiting this next generation is one of our most critical and enduring challenges.

Our Air Force recruiters are facing the toughest recruiting market in recent history. We are currently

falling short of our recruiting goals for the first time in more than 20 years. Some factors contributing to the recruiting shortfall are the nation's strong economy, low employment rates and a significant decline in military awareness throughout the nation. Our recruiters are fully engaged in an intense competition for the same outstanding men and women prized by American industry.

While job opportunities in the civilian market are plentiful, few can match the opportunities, the benefits and career advancement offered by our Air Force.

Clearly, the Air Force offers a path to success for these young men and women by providing world-class training, educational opportunities, a great way of life and, most important, an opportunity to make a difference for our nation. In spite of this, the propensity of a young person to consider military service has decreased by more than 30 percent since 1989 according to Department of Defense surveys.

Much of the indifference can be attributed to a lack of awareness of our military lifestyle and benefits. So the challenge is to get the message out to the young people of our nation. To this end, the Air Force is taking aggressive steps to overcome these obstacles by approving an enlistment bonus pro-

gram (up to \$12,000) and, for the first time in our history, purchasing television advertising in major markets.

These unprecedented steps will make a difference, but our recruiters should not shoulder the burden of our Air Force's future alone. It is a shared responsibility that includes each and every Air Force airman.

So, how can you help? Every commander can help by asking their people to spread the word about Air Force opportunities and even encourage their airmen to introduce young civilian men and women they know to an Air Force recruiter. Your personal testimony is our most powerful recruiting tool.

You can make a significant difference to the Air Force and to the success of a young person. A 1998 sampling of Basic Military Training graduates shows 75 percent of our new airmen enter the service based on the recommendation of a friend or family member in the active duty armed force.

Make no mistake, your influence in your local community is powerful. Your voice in civic associations, schools and church groups provide a credible testimony for the benefits of Air Force service.

Further, our recruiters are in constant need of active duty "role models" to represent the Air Force way of life and to represent specific of-

ficer or enlisted career fields in schools and career fairs. Just sharing the highlights of your career builds understanding and respect of our Air Force — You may provide the spark that a young person needs to transform his or her life.

For our senior and noncommissioned officers looking for a special challenge — the Air Force needs you to consider recruiting duty.

In addition to the rewards of working with the young people in our local communities, recruiters are rewarded with the choice of assignments, special duty pay and an incredible opportunity to learn lifetime skills in sales and management.

If you would like to hear about the rewards of recruiting duty, be sure to contact the Recruit the Recruiter team at Randolph AFB, Texas DSN 487-3511 or see the Military Personnel Flight.

Here is my challenge: each of us needs to recruit our replacement in the Air Force. In recruiting lingo, we all have a goal of one. It will take time and effort but I promise this task will be immensely rewarding. You will be passing on the promise of the Air Force's future and providing the same opportunity for success that all of us enjoyed during our careers. Remember, we are selecting the future of our next generation Air Force ... Aim High.

Gambling still out on federal installations



FYIG

From Your Inspector General

Col. Michael F. Turner
Inspector General

For as long as I've been in the Air Force, gambling activities have been prohibited by military members while on Federally-owned property or on duty. The Joint Ethics Regulation makes it clear that DoD employees "shall not participate while on Federally-owned or leased property... in any gambling activity."

Officers are specifically prohibited from gambling with enlisted members anywhere under the rules against fraternization. But except for rare, agency-approved activities such as a raffle which supports welfare funds for DoD members, gambling is out.

During the past 10 years, we have witnessed a vast culture change in the toleration and acceptance of gambling activities in the U.S. In 1988, only two states had casinos and except for some legalized horse race betting, gambling activities were mostly illegal. Now 48 states allow some form of legalized gambling, over half have casinos, and lotteries have expanded exponentially!

Maybe the federal government should sponsor a lottery and put slots on every base to raise money

to buy F-22s and finance O & M. Does the apparent acceptance of gambling by the public mean the federal government and the military are behind the times and should open up gambling on federal installations? I think not.

Whatever happened to the idea that we don't get something for nothing, that there is no such thing as a free lunch? Somebody has to pay. We have all been indoctrinated by gambling advocates to think this is a good way to raise money for education or provide social benefits.

Recently, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC) completed its study. Congress charged the Commission to conduct a comprehensive legal and factual study of the social and economic impacts of gambling on federal, state, local, and tribal governments; and on communities, social institutions, families, and individuals. Even though it was sent to Congress, the President, and governors of all the states, most people are not aware of the contents of the report.

The conclusions showed a significant increase in social problems, addictive and pathological behaviors, the impact on young people, and promotion by the industry to cultivate gambling behaviors among the population, especially the poor, less-educated, and more senior citizens.

The Commission's recommendations were extensive, and the report contained some startling findings. So much so, that a majority of the commissioners called for a "moratorium" on further gambling expansion in America until more is known about its real impact on communities. As for lot-

teries, schools are not getting the money they were promised. Some of the key recommendations were:

- Restrict gambling to 21 years or older.
- Require states with lotteries to reduce their sales dependence on low-income neighborhoods.
- Ban the use of internet for gambling.
- Remove ATMs and credit card advance machines from gambling areas.
- Require gambling impact statements prior to expanding gaming in a community.
- Prohibit all betting on collegiate and amateur sporting events.
- Post warnings about the dangers of gambling, and the odds.

I believe if Americans become more informed, the exponential spread of the gambling industry may level off or decrease. If you would like to see the government report for yourself, it is located on the web at www.ngisc.gov.

Whether or not you think gambling is a problem or has been over-sold is your personal prerogative.

However, the standards of conduct for government employees on duty or while on base remain unchanged. OPM regulations state employees "shall not conduct, or participate in, any gambling activity including the operation of a gambling device, conducting a lottery or pool, a game for money or property, or selling or purchasing a numbers slip or ticket." Any exceptions should be cleared through the base legal office.

Sgt. rises from streets of Philly to AFMC's best

Emily C. Firman
Staff Writer

From the streets of Philadelphia to being the Air Force Material Command's Outstanding Base Bioenvironmental Engineering Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Senior Master Sergeant John J. LaForgia, Jr. has come a long way.

He was presented with this title in March for his accomplishments with the Aerospace Medical Squadron.

The award recognizes accomplishments in LaForgia's career field and in the medical group. LaForgia currently serves as the Superintendent of the 77th Medical Group.

LaForgia continues to uphold all of the traits that earned him the award, his personal standards of enthusiasm,

motivation, integrity and commitment to quality, in his present position with the 77th Medical Group.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this East Coast boy enlisted in the Air Force over 20 years ago. His bioenvironmental engineering specialist training took place at Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas.

"This is a testimony to MSgt. LaForgia's hard work and to the challenges the base environmental team faced during this time period," said Col. Edward Torres, 77th Medical Group commander. The entire team is a key element to the safe living and working environment here at McClellan. It is one of the most challenging base bioenvironmental assignments in the Air Force.

LaForgia will continue to serve in the Air Force and hopes to achieve the rank of Chief Master Sergeant



US Air Force photo by Emily Firman
Senior Master Sgt. John L. LaForgia, Jr., reviews a decoration package with Airman 1st Class Detroy Love, Commanders Support Staff Apprentice.

within the year.

LaForgia offers this advice to others who are following in his footsteps:

"Set your standards high, find and emulate good role models and be a good role model and leader."

2nd Lt. Robert A. Firman
Public Affairs

One after another, base organizations are going away. For every departure, we'll have a ceremony. We'll also have retirements, changes of command, and various honorings. Each of these occasions involves customs and courtesies we don't necessarily see every day.

At a change-of-command ceremony, for example, I watched the honor guard carry the flag with three members on either side.

Of course, any time the flag passes, military members render a salute. However, I hadn't seen the flag pass in this manner before and the tricky part came when they stopped. Frankly, I wasn't sure when to drop my salute.

We've all gone through military training and read or been told what appropriate customs and courtesies are in various situations. However, there's a lot to know, so I did a little research to refresh what I've learned and to be sure I respond correctly in the future.

I discovered that as soon as the honor guard detail stopped and faced the flag, they began a flag folding ceremony.

During a flag-folding ceremony at retirements, retreats or funerals,



US Air Force photo by Emily Firman
Members of the 77th Security Forces Squadron perform a flag folding ceremony. Once folded, a flag is considered "cased" and need not be saluted. When the ceremony is in progress, the flag need not be saluted either. Any other time the flag passes, military members in uniform render a salute.

als, when the flag is carried to and from the ceremony area, one must salute as the detail passes.

However, when the detail stops to fold the flag, one should drop the salute and stand at attention until the flag is folded. Once folded, the flag is considered "cased" and need not be saluted.

I also noted a similar point for funerals. When the flag-draped casket is pulled out of the hearse, one must salute as it passes and hold the

salute until it is placed on the stand at the gravesite. As soon as the casket is put down and pall bearers proceed to lift the flag to be folded, one should drop the salute and stand at attention while the flag is being folded.

Other ceremonies may present circumstances unique to that event, or at least uncommon. Other times, we may have been taught one thing, but see people doing something else. Once in a while, we'll have the op-

portunity to teach someone who simply has no military experience how to respond correctly to the National Anthem or a ceremony.

From time to time, I'll pose questions like these to people "in the know": members of the honor guard, chief master sergeants, and more. I'll let you know what I find out.

If you think of other confusing or unusual situations you'd like me to look into also, send them my way and I'll get you some answers.

F-22

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Q Won't the F-22 cost much more than the F-15 to operate?

A No. About two-thirds of fighter costs are incurred after production: maintenance and related costs. The F-22 will be maintained with half the number of people as the F-15, will require one third the maintenance function, will perform twice as many sorties between major required

maintenance and will regenerate for combat 30 percent faster.

Q With the Air Force's clear and unchallenged technological superiority in the skies over today's battlefields, isn't the purchase of the F-22 a waste of taxpayer money?

A No. The Air Force demonstrated air dominance in recent conflicts and "made it look easy." But how can that justify suspending development of the equipment our warfighters will need

in the next century? Even without a production delay, the Air Force would not be operational with the F-22 until 2005 and wouldn't be ready to prosecute war with it until about 2010. The Air Force does not intend to ask its warfighters to put their lives on the line over battlefields 10, 20, 30 years in the future using aircraft that are over 30 years old (F-15s). The F-22 is not meant to fight a war in the year 2000, nor even 2005. It's meant to meet the formidable challenges to air superiority that the enemy is likely to field in the next three decades.

Computer gurus rid viruses, more

Jennifer Vargas
Staff Writer

Brainiacs, whiz kids – call'em what you want, but some of the folks from the 77th Communications Squadron are responsible for "rescuing" computers from the likes of grubby computer viruses and maddening network problems.

As members of the technical support section, these folks should probably be hailed as super heroes or lifesavers when it comes to solving technical entanglements, but the 16-member team takes it all in stride.

"Our team of professionals works incredibly well together," said Tech. Sgt. Darren Canady, NCO in charge of network support. "Everybody is focussed on their job, and they don't quit until the mission is complete," Canady explained.

The members from technical support are seen all over the base making "house calls" to people confronted with various techno dilemmas.

"Some of the most difficult situations we encounter are intermittent

problems," said Staff Sgt. Scott Kayser, network technician. "One minute the e-mail is working, and the next minute, for no apparent reason, it's not working," Kayser explained.

On average, the computer gurus solve 30 to 40 different riddles weekly.

"Our entire operation is dependent on just a few computers," said 2nd Lt. Robert Firman, public affairs officer. We've suffered several computer problems, but the small computer response team has consistently and professionally kept our systems alive. They are fast, they're good, and I think they're great," Firman explained.

Even the most perplexing problems don't go unsolved, including the recent, debilitating Worm virus.

"The Worm virus was a tough one," Brooks said. "But we were able to put antivirus applications to use and inoculate the virus," he explained.

But, when the going gets tough, with a little tenacity and a whole bunch of patience the small computer workers pool their wisdom and tun-

nel their way to the end of any problem.

"One of the great things about working here is that everybody shares their knowledge," said Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Carter. "The

willingness to help others is great," she added.

The next time your friendly computer becomes a wicked adversary, look to the heroes of McClellan's technical support shop.



U.S. Air Force photos by Emily C. Firman

Left: Senior Airman James Marshall and Airman Desiree Brynda, both systems support technicians, from the 77th Communications Squadron, assess the functions of a base computer. Above: Brynda gets to the heart of the problem inside a small computer.

Assignment listing available Aug. 9

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The newest Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing of available enlisted assignments overseas arrives at military personnel flights and on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web home page Aug. 9.

This list includes assignments for overseas jobs opening during the April through June 2000.

Personnel officials recommend assignment preferences be updated by Aug. 23 to ensure the information is in the computer system before actual assignments are released on or about Sept. 20.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements, by Air Force Specialty Code and rank, and gives people a chance to update their assignment preferences to match vacancies that need filling in a particular

cycle.

Members should review, prioritize and list specifically those assignment options available to them on EQUAL.

Separate listings for assignments available at overseas locations as well as assignments available for those returning from overseas areas are published quarterly. Special duty assignments appear on EQUAL-Plus and are updated weekly.

Military personnel flights and unit orderly rooms will have copies of the listings and can help people update their preferences. People who are on temporary duty during the advertising period should contact the nearest personnel office for assistance.

People can access the list on the AFPC WWW home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>; then click on the "military assignments" link.

Recruiting for vanpool passengers

Two McClellan vanpools are currently recruiting new passengers. The Fairfield/Vacaville Vanpool has vacancies to fill this month, while the Vallejo vanpool will have three available seats in November. McClellan vanpools utilize specially designed commuter vans with custom seating and lighting. The monthly cost covers fuel, repairs and insurance.

The Fairfield/Vacaville van arrives at McClellan just before 6 a.m. and leaves McClellan at 3:30 p.m. The monthly cost is \$90. Any one interested should call Paul Masopaust at 643-0885.

The Vallejo van leaves Vallejo at 5:35 a.m. and Vacaville at 5:50 a.m., arriving at McClellan before 7 a.m. It leaves McClellan at 4:30 p.m. The monthly cost for passengers boarding in Vallejo is \$125. The monthly cost for passengers boarding in Vacaville is \$95. For more information, call Darryl Baker at 643-5387, ext. 186.

The McClellan Rideshare Office is currently organizing a vanpool from Sacramento to Beale Air Force Base. For more information, call 643-0931, ext 7.

Retirement, leave information for GS workers

Gary W. Baddley
Chief, Workforce Effectiveness

Questions continue to arise on how restored leave is credited to an employee’s annual leave account by Defense Finance and Accounting Services.

After the end of the leave year which is Jan. 1, 2000, all leave which exceeds the 240 “use or lose” amount drops off the first pay period in 2000. It is then restored the next pay period by DFAS using a list of eligible employees provided by the Civilian Personnel Office.

A few employees are not eligible as they have continuing Federal employment within the Sacramento commuting area.

If you already have a restored leave balance from prior years, the amount will be added to it or if not, it will show up in a new restored leave account on your pay slip.

This process can create a problem for people who leave during the first calendar year 2000 leave period (Jan. 2 – Jan. 15, 2000) because it has not been restored and there is no record of leave for which to be paid the excess leave.

To bypass this administrative dilemma, we recommend people not leave until the second pay period (Jan 16 – Jan 29, 2000) in order to be paid for it. Also, if you retire at the end of January your first benefit check will begin on Feb. 1, 2000.

Some employees have asked about the “mili-

tary buy back” process. It begins in the Civilian Personnel Retirements and Benefits Section who provides forms to be submitted to the military to request their estimated earnings. When an employee receives the estimated earnings information from the military they return it to DPCEB to be submitted to DFAS for computation of interest owed.

Payment for the buy back of military time is made directly to DFAS in Denver, Colorado. Receipts, if any, are sent directly to the employee for their records.

If employees want the receipt to go in their Official Personnel File it can be sent to DPCEB who will insure it is placed in their OPF. DFAS does not always provide a receipt but a record of payment will show on your leave and earning statement after it is paid.

The leave and earning statement can also serve as your receipt, a copy of which can be placed in your OPF.

Since Jan. 1, 2000, is the end of the leave year and Dec. 31, 1999, is the last workday, even though a holiday, employees retiring effective Dec. 31 stand to gain some potential pay and tax benefits.

First, they will be able to cash in all the annual leave they have saved during their employment (i.e. restored leave, use or lose accrued this year and their 240 hours of banked leave).

Second, all leave will be paid in the new tax year as will the VSIP incentive, where eligible.

Closure Corner



Facilities vacate process information:

WalkThru expectations brief
First Tuesday of each month, 2:30 p.m.
Bldg. 200, Room 129, FM Conference Room
Project Officer
Jan Miller, CLC, 643-3286, Ext. 234
General Information
WalkThru POCs meet at Bldg. 35 at 9:30 a.m.
Facilities vacate checklist - CL Web Page
Facilities scheduled to vacate:
July 31
Bldg. 475 E - Paint Shop
Sept. 23
Bldg. 263 B - Logistics Facility Dept.
Bldg. 263 C - Software
Bldg. 263 E - Software

Third, government service employees will receive the benefit of having their annual leave paid at a higher salary rate assuming a January pay raise and they would take their life insurance, Federal Employee Group Life Insurance into retirement at an increased value with the pay raise.

We will process employees retiring Dec. 31 on Dec. 30, as it’s their last workday before the holiday.

FOCUS Center Jobs

This section contains some of the job announcements available at the McClellan FOCUS Centers. For additional information, contact one of the FOCUS Centers: #1, 643-5661 or #3, 643-6808. FOCUS #1 is open until 7 p.m Thursdays.

Position: Automation Technician
Annc#: CA99-06067-050
Close: Indefinite
Location: Sacramento
Agency: U. S. Census Bureau
Remarks: Appointments are for one year and may be extended up to one additional year. Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Automation Technician
Annc#: CA99-06113-049
Close: Indefinite
Location: Davis
Agency: U. S. Census Bureau
Remarks: Appointments are for one year and may be extended up to one additional year. Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Auditor GS-0511-05/07
Annc#: PH-DP-9-0504
Close: Indefinite
Location: Sacramento
Agency: Defense Contract Audit Agency
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the Focus Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Computer Specialist Lead GS-334-13/13
Annc#: 9991786
Close: July 30
Location: Sacramento
POC: William Harris (415) 522-2661
Agency: General Services Administration
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Communications & Instrumentation Mechanic Team Leader BB-2604
Annc#: BOR-MP-99-60
Close: Dec. 31
Location: Redding
POC: Inga Hall (916) 978-5471
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Chemist GS-1320-07/11
Annc#: ARS-X9W-9366
Close: July 30
Location: Davis
POC: Leo Rachal (530) 792-5505
Agency: USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Accounting Technician (Data Transcribing) GS-525-05/05
Annc#: 98-99- DECA
Close: Dec. 31
Location: McClellan AFB
POC: Brenda Wallace
Agency: Defense Commissary Agency
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Secretary (Office Automation) GS-318-05/08
Annc#: 99-SCP-308
Close: Sept. 30
Location: Moffett Field
Agency: NASA, Ames Research Center
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Administrative Operations Assistant
Annc#: USGS-W-99-170
Close: Sept. 30
Location: Menlo Park
POC: Personnel Assistant (650) 329-4104
Agency: U. S. Geological Survey
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers. For more information or for KSA’s contact agency.

Position: Administrative Analyst I/II
Close: July 30

FOCUS BRIEF

Forestry Service
open house

The Civilian Personnel FOCUS Centers are sponsoring an Open House for the Forestry Service July 29 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in FOCUS Center 1, Bldg. 9. The Forestry Service is recruiting for many clerical, technical, and professional vacancies and anticipated vacancies. The positions are too numerous to list; copies of announcements are available in the FOCUS Centers. Geographic areas include, but are not limited to, Tahoe, Truckee, Placerville, Vallejo, other areas of California, plus Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Missouri, and Mississippi.

Forestry representatives will be on hand to answer questions, and they will accept a SF-171, OF-612 or resume for some of the vacancies.

The event is open to all McClellan employees, civilian and military. No appointment is necessary, however you may call 3-5661 for additional information. Administrative leave may be used to attend this function.

Census Bureau

The Civilian Personnel FOCUS Centers are sponsoring an Employment Test for positions with the Census Bureau at 12:30 p.m., Aug. 4. Testing begins promptly at 12:30 p.m. If you wish to take this test on site, you must call Greg Eason at 643-6808 by close of business July 27. For more information call 643-5661.

Location: Sacramento
Agency: City of Sacramento
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers.

Position: Information Technology Customer Support Specialist I/II
Close: Open Examination
Location: Sacramento
Agency: Sacramento County
Remarks: Vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Centers.



Movies

Movies start at 7 p.m. in Bldg. 1417.

Instinct - Friday & Saturday

Anthony Hopkins, Donald Sutherland and Maura Tierney - Within the brilliant mind of primatologist Ethan Powell lies an ominous secret — a deep-seated mystery unsolved by his estranged family and the law enforcement officials who have jailed him for murders that occurred in the jungles of Rwanda. Highly educated and sophisticated, Powell was affected by years of studying mountain gorillas to the point where he was living among them in the wild, as one of their own.

Rated R (some language, sensuality, violence, and drug content)

The Thirteenth Floor - Sunday

Craig Bierko, Gretchen Mol - Computer scientist Hammood Fuller has discovered something extremely important. He's about to tell the discovery to his colleague, Douglas Hall, but knowing someone is after him, the old man leaves a letter in his computer generated parallel world that's just like the 30's with seemingly real people with real emotions.

Rated R (some language, sensuality, violence, and drug content)

Youth Center

Today: Open recreation, 2 - 7 p.m.; open gym, 2 - 3 p.m. and 4:15 - 8 p.m.; open snack bar, 2 - 6 p.m.; advanced gymnastics, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Moms, Pops and Tots play group 10-11 a.m.

Friday: Open recreation, gym, snack bar, 2 - 6 p.m.; Pre teen night, ages 9-12, 6:30-9 p.m., free for members and \$2 for non-members.

Saturday: Open recreation, snack bar and gym, noon - 5 p.m. 5K roller blade, ages 9-18, 10 a.m., members only, free,

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Open gym and recreation, 2 - 7 p.m., snack bar, 2 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday: Open recreation, 2 - 7 p.m.; open gym, 4:15 - 7 p.m.; snack bar, 2 - 6 p.m.; beginning gymnastics 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.; Tae Kwon Do, 6 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday: Open recreation, gym 2 - 7 p.m., snack bar 2 - 6 p.m. Couples Communication Class, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. To sign up, call Family Advocacy at 643-1518.

Bowling Leagues

Winter leagues are now forming at Camellia Lanes. Register now for the day and time of your choice. All McClellan active duty, retired military, DoD civilians and their family members are eligible. For more information, call 643-5752.

Air Force institutes new weight program

By Hal McKenzie

WR- ALC Public Affairs
Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

If anyone thought the Air Force wasn't serious about keeping its personnel fit and trim, they should think again.

The Air Force instituted a new Weight and Body Fat Management Program effective July 1 that ensures more consistency in measuring body fat, improved medical care for those undergoing a weight-reduction program and stricter long-term monitoring to prevent backsliding.

Bridgett Zimmerman, Health and Wellness director at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., said while some grumbling may inevitably greet the new regulations, "it will help people to learn new habits. Overall it's to their advantage."

In the new program, as outlined in Air Force Instruction 40-502, all the measuring used to determine body fat is done at HAWC, instead of at squadron orderly rooms as in the past. When the squadron suspects a member of being overweight, he or she is required to make an appointment at HAWC within two days.

HAWC personnel measure the person using a special tape called a Gulick II.

The tape has a spring on the end to minimize tension, which can skew

results.

Measurements are made of the neck and waist of men with the addition of the hips in women. Zimmerman said this will ensure consistent results, because the same kind of tape will be used and the same personnel will take the measurements.

The results are documented on Air Force Form 108, Weight Program Processing, and sent back to the orderly room.

Form 108 is used to determine whether a person is over the recommended body-fat percentage using a mathematical formula combining height, weight and body measurements.

Members identified as over body fat are then evaluated by the Military Training Facility to decide whether they can enter a three-month exercise and dietary period.

Unit commanders can exempt individuals only for medical reasons. However, exemptions can not exceed one year.

"We take care of the medical part," Zimmerman said, providing exercise machines and counseling for the overweight members. After they have completed the 90-day program, they are evaluated every two weeks for six more months.

Each person is given a different code according to their stage of the

program and their progress. The code determines their eligibility for promotion, assignment or re-enlistment.

Another major change in the regulations is that once members are enrolled in the program, they cannot get out even if they meet Air Force body fat standards ahead of time.

In the past, "People would fast or take a crash diet and lose some pounds just to get out, then they'd go out and eat pizza," Zimmerman said. "This time they are followed for the entire nine months."

According to Dave Holes, exercise physiologist at the Health and Wellness Center here, this new program is a good thing.

"It allows the military member whose over the weight limit and fat limit to join the 90 day program without having any administrative punishment given," said Holes. "It takes some of the fear concept out of the weight management program."

As the official regulations state, "Early removal from this program is not authorized regardless of reaching their body fat standard. The importance of this stage is for members identified as over body fat to attain behavior change in exercise and diet habits."

Information on the new program is available on the Air Force Web site, <http://afpubs.hq.af.mil>.

Burnout: What is it? What you can do

"Burnout" is a term we hear often. Anyone can suffer from burnout feeling seriously stressed and unable to cope. But burnout can be avoided when you learn about its causes and symptoms, how to recognize the problem, and ways that you can change your environment to reduce stressful situations.

Causes and symptoms

Burnout is most likely in people who feel overworked and unappreciated. They become disappointed, disgruntled and sometimes cynical. They may also feel guilty and ashamed.

The symptoms of burnout can included exhaustion, both mental and physical; hopelessness and helplessness; low spirit and self-esteem; frequent illness. Burnout happens often in helping professions such as nursing, but anyone doing very pressured (or even very boring) work can suffer from burnout.

Recognize the problem

The first step toward coping with burnout is defining the problem. Is the situation itself stressful? Is there something about your situation that you can change? For example, nurses who care for terminally ill patients can be prime candidates for burnout. However, by accepting that the situation *itself* is stressful, they can reduce feelings of guilt and resentment.

Make changes

Changes in both you and your environment can help prevent burnout. Analyze the situation. You may



Head check

For your mind, body and soul

Capt. Frank D. Weber
Chief, Mental Health Element

have more ability to change your environment than you think. Then take positive action if possible. For example, if lack of appreciation on the job is damaging morale, coworkers can make a group effort to compliment one another on their accomplishments. Your environment will also change as you develop communication skills. Sharing your feelings and listening to others is simple, yet very important.

When you ignore your physical and emotional needs during a period of constant or severe distress, burnout may result. It's important to take time to recover and heal from burnout. Otherwise serious emotional and physical damage may result.

Use and develop skills such as assertiveness, reaching out to friends, and talking with others in a situation like yours. Ask someone you respect to look at your situation and suggest solutions. Use this chance to make burnout a first step toward greater satisfaction.

If you have questions or want to know what services are available, contact the Mental Health Clinic at 643-8308. We can tell you about the services available throughout the McClellan community.



Col. Thomas F. Hayden, III, 77th Civil Engineer Group commander and Maj. Rodney L. Croslen, 77th Civil Engineer Squadron commander are retiring the guidon at the 77th CEG inactivation last Friday.

U.S. Air Force photo by Emily C. Firman

77th CEG bids farewell to McClellan

Robin Jackson
Editor

The 77th Civil Engineer Group put the tools away last Friday after more than 46 years of service.

The CEG along with the 777th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 77th Civil Engineer Squadron inactivated at the base flagpole with moving remarks given by Col. Thomas F. Hayden, III.

The group originated here in October 1952 as the 77th Installation Squadron and weathered many changes over the years to its current structure.

The Civil Engineer Group is responsible for the design, construction, repair maintenance, environmental concerns, disaster preparedness, and fire protection of 12.5 million square feet of facilities, land, housing and utilities, valued in excess of \$3.1 billion, in support of the Sacramento Air Logistics



U.S. Air Force photo by Henry Walker
Col. Thomas F. Hayden, III, 77th CEG commander

Center depot operations.

"The CE division will now come under the 77th Support Group with the remaining 130 members in readiness, housing and dormitories, as well as overhead functions and resources," said Col. Thomas F. Hayden, III, former 77th CEG commander. "Contractors will begin to take over facility maintenance and engineering arenas. We have professional folks so should have no problem under the remaining CE division."

Since its inception the 77th CEG has received many prestigious awards including the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Readiness Challenge IV Competition and the Society of American Military Engineers Curtain Award for Best Civil Engineer Unit in the Air Force just to name a few.

The group has made its mark in history and although it is not currently active it will not be forgotten.

McClellan Senior NCO makes the cut

SSgt. Alan Williams
SM-ALC Public Affairs

Although he won't be officially presented the award until Sept. 13 in Washington, Master Sgt. Larry E. Williams, Aircraft Systems Element superintendent for the 652nd Combat Logistics Support Squadron is still in awe after earning one of the highest awards for Air Force enlisted professionals.

Sitting at his desk after 16 years of service to country, in genuine modesty he said, "I couldn't believe it. I never really saw myself as one of those outstanding people," when he recalled the moment he was notified of his selection as one of the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Williams joined the Air Force at age 22 after serving three years in the U.S. Army Reserves. He recalled not being particularly happy with his civilian job. So, when a co-worker need a ride to see an Air Force recruiter the rest is history.

"I thought it [Air Force] would provide rewarding career and a chance for travel along with educational benefits," he said, recalling his logic for coming on active duty.

Williams has completed his Community College of the Air Force degree and is 18 semester hours from completing his baccalaureate degree.

It takes a lot to reach this level of recognition but for Williams it isn't about the awards. He enjoys his work and is the epitome of the Air Force professional — representing McClellan Air Force Base and his unit with an unwavering commit-

ment to the Air Force.

Normal days are "busy but fulfilling, but I wouldn't have it any other way," he added.

Williams leads a team of 55 aircraft maintainers who provide Aircraft Battle Damage Repair to the A-10A, F-117A and TF-34 inventory.

He and his team are responsible for saving the Air force more than \$57.2 million in contractor related costs, aircraft retirement costs, and aircraft replacement costs. All of this was accomplished within only nine deployments.

Somehow, he finds time to be involved in the Air Force community as well as the local community. He is senior advisor for the local chapter of the Air Force Sergeant's Association. He has mentored Air Force officer candidates at Sacramento State University and briefed the importance of professional organizations for the Base Mentorship Program. Last year, he served as a logistics coordinator for the 1998 California Special Olympics held at Sacramento State University. The all-volunteer teams provided tent and table set up and assisted athletes during the events. He was a youth advisor to the Center High School Parent Teacher Association where he's counseled and redirected 40 troubled teens. Also, he assisted the CHS drill team in raising more than \$600 to purchase uniforms.

"I don't like to be bored," added Williams.

With a schedule like his, who would be?

Williams will complete his fifth assignment as he leaves McClellan after 4 years for Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

"I've had my up and downs but I've learned a



U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Alan Williams

Master Sgt. Larry E. Williams poses by an A-10's 30 mm GAU-8/A gatling gun.

lot over the years. By far, this has been the best assignment yet," said Williams.

Williams expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from Col. W. P. "Bear" Ard, the previous 77th Air Base Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Leonard Czepial, SM-ALC command chief master sergeant, the senior leadership of the 652nd CLSS as well as the men and women of the Aircraft Systems Element.

"Master Sergeant Williams is one of the finest NCOs I have ever had the pleasure of working with," said Lt. Col. John Dufresne, commander, 652nd CLSS. "It's very exciting to see him get the recognition he deserves. His selection as on the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen not only reflects well on Sergeant Williams but is a testament to the strength and quality of the McClellan Enlisted Recognition Program," added Dufresne.